



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Region III
841 Chestnut Building
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

DEC 30 1993

Honorable Tim Holden
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Holden:

Thank you for your December 14, 1993 letter expressing support for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resource's request to redesignate the Reading ozone nonattainment area to attainment. Region III is making every effort to review the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's request for redesignation in a timely manner.

EPA is currently in the process of conducting a review of the Commonwealth's November 12, 1993 submittal to determine whether or not the redesignation request is complete. The following criteria will be used to determine approvability of the redesignation request and maintenance plan in accordance with section 107(d)(3)(E) of the Clean Air Act, as amended. The request must contain evidence that:

1. The national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) have been attained based on monitoring data.
2. The applicable implementation plan has been fully approved by EPA under section 110(k) of the Clean Air Act, as amended.
3. The improvement in air quality is due to permanent and enforceable reductions in emissions.
4. The Commonwealth has met all applicable requirements for the areas under section 110 and Part D of the Clean Air Act, as amended.
5. The EPA has fully approved a maintenance plan, including contingency measures for the area under section 175(A) of the Clean Air Act, as amended.

EPA anticipates publishing a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in June 1994. The ultimate decision on the redesignation request and maintenance plan will be made after consideration of the public comments received during the public comment period. EPA expects that a final decision will be made by November 1994.

If additional information is needed, please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,



for Stanley L. Laskowski
Acting Regional Administrator

TIM HOLDEN
6TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

December 14, 1993

HL 9305339
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
ENVIRONMENT, CREDIT, AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS AND
NUTRITION SUBCOMMITTEE
LIVESTOCK SUBCOMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
MILITARY ACQUISITIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
OVERSIGHT AND
INVESTIGATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

The Honorable Carol Browner
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Ms. Browner:

I write in strong support of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resource's (DER) request that the Reading moderate ozone nonattainment area be reclassified as an ozone attainment area. Secretary of Pennsylvania DER, the Honorable Arthur Davis, submitted a request for reclassification on November 15th, and I urge you expeditious and favorable consideration of this request.

As you know, Reading's designation as a moderate ozone nonattainment area was established on November 6, 1991 and was based on a design value of 0.141 ppm, measured in 1988. Since the 1987-89 time frame that EPA used to establish ozone designations and classifications, Reading's air quality has improved significantly. Indeed, data from the recent three year period of analysis shows that Reading's air quality (in this instance, maximum ozone concentration) is below the design value of 0.12 ppm and thus is in compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Ambient air data was obtained from two monitoring sites, one in Kutztown and one in Reading, and give an accurate representation of ozone levels throughout Berks County.

The data show further that this improvement in air quality stems from permanent and enforceable reductions in ozone volatile organic compounds (VOC), from 85 tons per day in 1988 to 66 tons per day in 1992. Projections show that VOC, oxides of nitrogen and carbon monoxide emissions are expected to decline over the next decade by 26%, 12% and 49% respectively.

Since it appears that all requirements for redesignation to attainment under Section 107 (d) (3) (E) have been met, the redesignation from moderate nonattainment to attainment should be in order. Please advise me at your earliest convenience as to how you plan to proceed on this matter.

Sincerely,


TIM HOLDEN
Member of Congress

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